THE BUILDER,

NO. XXXI.

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1843.

SINCE our last number we have been favoured by one communication in particular, under the signature of "H.," which we had designed printing entire, and making our comments upon it; but, upon second thoughts, we felt that, whether right or wrong, it would be an act of some ungraciousness on our parts to bring our correspondent out as a "whipping-boy," whether for the edification or terror of the rest of his tribe. He complains of our twentieth number, and points out for objection the farmstead plan, Mr. Bernhardt's letter on warming and ventilating, and that we should put out inquiries, instead of procuring the information sought by our readers, by arrangements within ourselves. He, nevertheless, seems anxious for the success of THE BUILDER, as we believe and hope all right-minded men to be. And since success of a sterling character is only to be secured by an exhibition and practice of the manly virtues on our side; since we cannot preach that which we enjoin upon our auditory—forbearance and good temper—without at least shewing something of the possession of them within ourselves, so we have resolved to bend from our first purpose, and to turn our correspondent's expression of his own and others' feelings to the best account we may after another fashion.

It is well known by this time that our purpose is to aim at making those for whom we labour happier and better men, as well as more skilled as artists and artificers; this can only be done by a constant, steady, and familiar union of the requisites in ourselves and in all. We have had very little to complain of, it is true, from our correspondents. Where we receive one letter in a carping or fault-finding spirit, we have one hundred to the direct contrary: and where the ground is so new, and of consequence ourselves new to the duty of walking over it, it is not a little consoling, not to say flattering, that among so many thousand readers we should have so many approving and indulgent. We have our faults, and many, but among hands we trust there is nothing to disqualify us for our high office, in the way of the petulant-humoured—the envious—the malignant—the conceited—the intolerant—or the grossly ignorant. Our friend H., and others with him, will excuse us, therefore, if we presume to consider our conduct and judgment unfairly called in question by them in such matters as the insertion of the farmstead plan. We know there are several imperfections in it, but this is the fault of the best of things, and the nearer the approach to perfection, the more readily sometimes the defects are perceived. We scanned the plan for ourselves and approved of it in the main; it was for our purpose—anxious for the sound and effective tuition of a large class—more to our mind than any beau-ideal affair or thing of high pretensions, and we will venture to say, that its effect will justify us. To ten thousand readers of THE BUILDER it will be more useful and valuable than a refined and far advanced design. To ten only of that ten thousand would things of a refined and far advanced class be germane or acceptable—and these are served in their turn. Ours is a large table; there are many hungry for knowledge, and we must cater considerately and kindly for all. So that we avoid the deleterious and poisonous, we are content—or rather, we are resolved to avoid them; and whether the food be high or homely, to derive our chief consolation from the assurance we have, that on the whole the regimen is wholesome and worthy of approval.

H. will pardon us if we are unable, and if for his good we are unwilling, to restrain ourselves from dealing with an objection he has urged against the insertion of the farmstead plan; perhaps, he says, it is contributed by a son of "H. G. Ward, Esq.," or uses words to that effect; "small blame" to the son, we say, for it; honour and applause to the filial pride of that son—if such he be (but of which we know nothing)—we wish every father of our craft such a son, and so little to blame in them.

Then as to Mr. Bernhardt, we have not been unheeding of the discussion, nor do we think lightly, as some do, of a discussion, in a paper like THE BUILDER, on that all-important subject, that too long neglected subject—Warmth and Ventilation of Buildings. The popular ignorance among Builders, and even among that class of engineers, practical and professional, who devote attention to such subjects, is a disgrace to us—and this is a strong word for our lips; but we have been indifferent to any personal conquest in this matter, and could wish that Mr. Bernhardt and those who dispute with him would exercise the temper of philosophers—let them strive for truth, not for self-vindication or paltry personal triumph. We know, or think we know, something of the merits of Mr. Bernhardt's and many other plans; and again we say, that our own judgment is involved in giving admission to his communications. We are not yet, nor do we think it likely to come to pass that we shall be ashamed of our decision; but again, we urge upon all good temper, and Christian, or, if some like it better, gentlemanly feeling—we shall be understood in this enlargement of our definition.

As to the third point, that we should not rely upon chance correspondents for information, but provide to secure it within ourselves; we are content to bide our time, to shew whether our plan or our correspondent's suggestion was likely to have been the best. An increase of our editorial staff and machinery for the conduct of the paper would involve what H. expresses himself to be prepared for, a rise in the price of THE BUILDER, and this we should be most unwilling to resort to; but what would be of greater evil consequence in our minds is the reversal of our plans for diffusing information and extending our usefulness. All the craft for whom we labour must be our staff, and when we have effected this desirable consummation, which we are every day the nearer tending to, THE BUILDER will have a proud pre-eminence. It is already, and we challenge—humbly challenge—proof to the contrary, one of the cheapest, and, in most cases, by far the cheapest work of its class; but it will be more so, and must be made such by steady purpose and friendly aid and confidence, the which we presume to calculate upon and to claim from all.

We are tempted to make extracts from an article in the *New Zealand Journal*, of a few weeks back, because they cannot fail being of interest to our readers as they were to ourselves. The very heading of the article had its attractions, "To Builders," &c.; and since we believe it to have been written by one intimately acquainted with the subject upon which he writes, and possessed of a large share of influence in the matters of the colony (although the style may appear a homely one), we think it not unimportant to bring the subject forward again in this guise, for the benefit of intending colonists among our friends to whom it is addressed:—

TO BUILDERS, BRICK AND TILE MAKERS, POTTERS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, NAVIGATORS, &c.

"MY FRIENDS.—I address you at this time in consequence of the times. It seems to me that your business mainly depended upon the increase of manufactures, for upon their increase depends the increase of your towns. In those towns of England, where there is no increase, and which are not more populous than they were fifty years ago, more builders, more artificers, were not wanted, than were sufficient to keep the old houses and their furniture in repair; but in your great manufacturing towns, the towns themselves have increased in size, and in the number of their houses and their contents, with the increase of the manufactures; the one has been dependent upon the other; but if the manufactures as they increased, create an increase in the numbers of the people, they increased also the number wanted of masters in the line of building the new factories, and the houses dependent on them, and of all sorts of workmen employed by them, either in creating all these buildings, or subsequently furnishing them. If, then, the manufactures remain as they are at this moment, we will neither speak of increase or decline, but let them remain exactly where they are, and at once all these masters and their workmen, who depended upon their increase, are without work, and this is evidently the case with thousands of you. Well, then, what is to be done? You are no longer wanted where employment depended upon this increase of buildings. Complaining will not lead to the building of new factories which are not wanted, and if new factories are not built, new cottages will only be built to remain empty. Is it not evident that you must find out some new employment? and if you cannot find employment at home, will it be wise to remain, and live as the bears do in winter, by sucking their paws; or to speak to you in plainer English, by eating up your property instead of putting it to active use? This, then, is the subject about which I wish to talk to you, and put you in the way of making a change for the better. Listen to me! . . . .

"Now the object of my letter is to find for many of you a home—not a ready-built home, but a spot that is healthy, and where you will find immediate and profitable employment, and work for those who go with you. Perhaps you are thinking that I am about to recommend you to New Brunswick, Canada, or to America. No, I am not. The climate in New Brunswick and the Canadas is horrid—there are nine months winter, and three months summer, of intense heat, in those parts. In short, the climate is so bad, the majority of children die, and after a time of suffering, the greater number emigrate again to the United States; but there they are no longer under the English flag. . . . .

The writer now proceeds to give his opinion in disfavour of America, adverting to the ruinous and bankrupt state into which that country had been thrown, as he alleges, by a reliance upon a false system of trading, false banks, &c.; and he concludes that it is something like "jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire," to go there. He proceeds thus:

"The going to America is thought an easy matter; for some, no doubt, who can go in a great hotel driven by steam in 10 or 12 days, it is very easy, but not for any of you whom I am now addressing. The prevalence of westerly winds is such, that the voyage from America is a much readier one than to America. You must all go in sailing vessels. It is a remarkably stormy sea between the North of Europe and America. In winter time uncommonly cold. The average time of a sailing vessel from the western ports, say Liverpool, and Glasgow, and Ireland, to America, is from 47 to 50 days. But, suppose it is done, this is but the first stage to an emigrant voyage. New York is full to excess with English and Irish emigrants, many of whom are in a state of complete poverty. What have they to do? Why

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